



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

(310)659-0205 FAX(310)657-4340
E-Mail calpeek@aol.com

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SEC. OF STATE JONES PROPOSES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON CA'S REAPPORTIONMENT PROCESS

Editor's note: One of the under-reported issues during *Campaign '98* was Republican fears of what might happen with **reapportionment** if voters retained a Demo majority in both houses of the Legislature and elected Gray Davis as the first Demo governor in 16 years. That's a reality now and GOP fears about *lopsided re-mapping* is running very high. Here's **Calpeek's** update & analysis...

...Remapping of legislative & congressional districts only happens once every ten years, after the U.S. Census is complete. Although reapportionment talk is now a hot topic among political insiders, the process itself is still two years away. But leave it to Calif. Demo Party *spindoc* Bob Mulholland to send GOPers into a total state of paranoia with his comment that GOP U.S. Rep. Brian Bilbray of San Diego will need a *surfboard* to find his 49th CD after the remapping is finished. Mulholland just smiles, but GOPers are really worried...

...So worried that Calif. Sec. of State Bill Jones, now the titular head of the Calif. Republican Party, has said he will sponsor a constitutional amendment to take the reapportionment power *away* from the Legislature and Governor and *shift* the responsibility over to a set of CA Supreme Court appointed masters (retired judges) to develop the remapping plan. The 1991 remapping plan was done in this fashion, but there are some sources who think the first plan devised by former Demo Assembly Speaker Willie Brown would have served the GOP better in the long run. Lots of debate about that -- but that's what our sources say...

...Jones will have to go the initiative route, because he doesn't have the votes in the Legislature to get a constitutional amendment passed. Since 1982, there have

been 4 different initiatives aimed at revising the remapping process. All 4 were defeated by hefty margins; so history works *against* Jones...

...But before Calif. can even really consider a new way to remap districts, the 2000 U.S. Census must be taken care of and there's controversy here too. The 1990 Census was off the mark by 8-10 million nationwide; 1.5 million under-counted in Calif. In 1990, the Census Bureau used an actual head count (door-by-door). For the 2000 Census, the Clinton Admin. wants to use a sampling system, which they say will be more accurate. The sampling system probably results in a *bigger number* of minorities being counted. The GOP dominated Congress opposes sampling and wants an actual head count. A final decision is up in the air. The GOP fears the loss of 24 House seats if sampling is used. We'll update this story from time to time. Stay tuned...

TAKING A BRIEF LOOK AT GOV. GRAY DAVIS' NEW ADMINISTRATION - FIRST WEEK SETS THE TONE.

Editor's note: We're now into the 3rd week of Gray Davis' first term as Calif.'s 37th governor. Here's our spin on the new administration...

...Although Davis is starting out his new administration on a high note - *an era of higher expectations* - there's troubling financial news out of Brazil which could slow down Calif.'s economy. Not good news for the U.S. or Calif. We'll know more in a week or so...

...But during the first week of the new administration, the overall tone and direction was set for at least the next six months. Although it's been said *ad nauseam*, the key political **buzz words** are moderation & govern from the center. In terms of **hot issues**, there's only one: educational reform, where the key buzz word is *accountability*...

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...In both his inaugural speech and his State-of-the-State address, Davis reached out to GOPers and said he didn't care which side of the aisle an idea came from as long as it made sense and worked. Davis also called for an end to *wedge politics* (not likely to happen soon, but it sounded good), and in the opinion of some practiced *wedge politics* himself by going out of his way to bash the pro-life crowd. It wasn't really necessary given Davis' 20-pt. win over Dan Lungren, but it was a political bone thrown to the new governor's Demo base. Republicans generally gave Davis fair-to-good marks for his two key speeches, noting that many of Davis' proposals have GOP origins. Others are taking a wait and see attitude...

...As **Calpeek** has noted before, Gray Davis is a very cautious politician. He takes measured steps and doesn't tend to make many major mistakes. The new \$77 billion 1999-2000 budget is a reflection of this cautious approach. Davis would probably like to see State workers get a bigger pay raise, but he and his team are aware of the uncertainties that currently exist. Ditto with more money for educational reform...

...In the meantime, key jobs in the new Davis Administration are all set. Many of the new Cabinet secretaries and agency directors are familiar faces with records of solid public service, such as former State Sen. Gary Hart as Education Secretary and new Resources Secretary Mary D. Nichols. Many of Davis' key appointments are *women* and there's a rather large number of *Hispanics* in key positions as well, reflecting the face of California's population...

...And the one thing which strikes you about new team is that most all of the new appointees have solid backgrounds in politics - such as Cabinet Secretary Susan Kennedy and new Industrial Relations Agency Director Steve Smith, both former high ranking Demo party political operatives. Ditto with Dario Frommer, Jane Crawford and former Congressman Vic Fazio...

...As for the governor's personal staff, the appointment of Lynn Schenk as Davis' chief aide & sr. counselor caught some off guard and it remains to be seen how she and the Davis team will mesh. And while Michael Bustamante is well known to the political news media, another question is how new Communications Director Phil Trounstine will adjust to being on the "other side

of the spin." We suspect the former *San Jose Merc* political editor/writer will do fine and judging from both the inaugural and State-of-the-State addresses, Trounstine, Bustamante & Co. (and Garry South too) kept Davis on track - right in the middle ground...

...FYI: the big winner in this whole story about the new Davis team is Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante. Davis has given his LG some real responsibility and has made Bustamante the point man on infrastructure and relations with Mexico. Stay tuned...

POLITICS & SPORTS: PUBLIC FUNDING OF SPORTS FACILITIES IN CALIFORNIA BACK IN THE NEWS.

Editor's note: Within a matter of weeks the NFL will decide whether L.A. or Houston gets the next franchise. And it looks as though the *S.F. 49ers'* plan to build a new \$525 million stadium-mall complex is up in the air. Across the Bay in Alameda Co. there's a special election in the 16th AD where the *Raider* deal may become a hot political issue. Here's a brief update...

...In mid-February the National Football League owners may award a 32nd franchise. It's Houston vs. L.A., where there are two competing bids. Many insiders think the NFL leans toward L.A. because of the size of the market. It's all about money. In L.A., it's *Carson's Hacienda* vs. the *New Coliseum*. Here's what's interesting: the New Coliseum deal involves only \$40 million in public funding vs. \$180 million in bonds to be floated by Carson, a city founded in 1968. It's a huge amount of debt for a city of only 85,000 and one has to wonder why the council hasn't put this issue to a public vote? And sources say the whole *Hacienda* deal could end up as a hot issue in the Spring muni election...

...In S.F., where Mayor Willie Brown had the wisdom to seek voter approval for \$100 million in bonds to help the *49ers* build a new stadium at the 3Com Park area, the *S.F. Chron* reported that the higher projected costs has caused the team to scrap the new stadium and instead remodel & upgrade the existing 3Com Park. But Brown says the deal to build a new stadium is still on track. Bottomline: there's lots of confusion because no one seems to be in charge of the *49ers*...

...Across the Bay, in Alameda Co.'s 16th AD special, former Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris is battling attorney Frank Russo for Sen. Don Perata's old assembly post.

The deal which brought the *Raiders* back to Oakland from L.A. has turned very sour and expensive and it took place on Harris' watch. The special is set for Feb. 2nd and it will be interesting to see whether voters take out their frustrations on Harris. Stay tuned...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: 3 MEASURES CIRCULATE.

Editor's note: The CA Sec. of State's office has given the go ahead for 3 new initiatives to begin collecting signatures. Here's a brief update...

◆ ***Single Tax. Constitutional Amendment*** is an initiative sponsored by James Sheppard of the CA Fair Tax Committee in Anaheim (714)978-6480. This c/a would replace the existing tax system of many taxes, fees, tolls and other assessments with a single tax to be administered by the State Treasurer. Sheppard has until April 23 to collect 693,230 valid signatures...

◆ ***Ombudsman General. District Ombudsmen*** is the official title of this constitutional amendment by Edson W. Wisely of Santa Cruz (831)426-3278. This c/a would establish a state elective office of Ombudsman General to determine if existing state laws conflict with the U.S. or Calif. constitution. Wisely has until May 17 to collect 670,550 valid signatures...

◆ ***None of the Above Ballot Option*** is an initiative statute sponsored by Teri Shugart Erickson and Alan F. Shugate of Soquet ☎(831)479-7431. If approved, only votes for named candidates will count for the purposes of determining election results, but the "none of the above" option shall be tallied and listed in the official statement of vote. According to the sponsors, the NTA option gives voters the chance to express their dissatisfaction with candidates, while still participating in the voting process. Erickson & Shugate have until June 3 to collect 419,094 valid signatures. They have hired consultant Bill Zimmerman to oversee the campaign, while Progressive Campaigns has been hired to collect the required signatures. FYI: Shugate is the founder of *Seagate Technology*...

...FYI: CA Sec. of State Bill Jones(R) has blasted a U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down Colorado's law which requires initiative petition circulators to be registered voters and wear ID badges that denote the circulator's status as a volunteer or paid worker. Jones

says this decision will result the formation of national firms who go from state to state to qualify initiatives for well-funded special interest groups. Stay tuned...

S.F.'s WILLIE BROWN GEARING UP FOR REELECTION

Editor's note: S.F. Mayor Willie Brown faces voters this coming November. In writing this story, we've been subjected to 2 different spins about his chances of winning a second term: 1) Brown is unbeatable; and 2) he is vulnerable. Here's our update & analysis...

...In November of '98 an *S.F. Chron* poll by Baldassare Associates showed **48%** saying they would **not** vote to reelect Willie if the election were held now. This poll lead to many negative stories saying the same thing: come November of '99, Brown would be *toast*...

...But Mayor Willie is one lucky guy. Former State Sen. Quentin Kopp(I-S.F.), seen as perhaps Brown's strongest potential opponent, is now a judge and is out of the picture. And so is S.F. Co. Bd. of Supes. Chair Tom Ammiano, another strong rival, who now supports the mayor for reelection. Sup. Leland Yee also leans against a challenge. There has been talk that former Mayor Frank Jordan wants a rematch, but the smart money says *no way*. Bottomline: many still believe the political myth that Willie can't be defeated...

...That doesn't include Clint Reilly, the former Demo campaign consultant, who has been outspoken in his criticism of Brown and has the *deep pockets* to mount a serious campaign. Sources say Reilly tried to recruit others, but without success --- so insiders say Reilly is very close to announcing his own candidacy. And for those who dismiss Reilly, remember Minnesota! Insiders never gave Jesse Ventura a chance either...

...Still it would be an uphill battle, because Brown has already locked up lots of key support - including the S.F. Central Labor Council and the S.F. Co. Demo Party. And politically the S.F. landscape is looking better for Brown in '99 than it was last year. For example: S.F. City Hall's makeover is complete and the critics who pounded the mayor have been silenced. It really is a beautiful public building. And there's lots of other new construction too and that means jobs!!!

...This is not to say that Brown doesn't have other pro-

blems. He does. There's always the *homeless* situation and Brown made a campaign promise that he'd make the "train" run on time, but the *Muni System* is in bad shape, although there are those who say it is on the mend and by the time of the November election, S.F.'s transportation system should be much improved...

...FYI: Another major plus for Mayor Brown: he has a powerful ally in Gov. Gray Davis. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are few items, political and otherwise, worth noting...

■ ***A New Sacramento Mayor?*** - Sources say Sacto Mayor Joe Serna(D) is pushing hard for an appointment as chair of the ALRB. And if Gov. Davis were to name Serna to head the Ag Labor Relations Bd., it would set up a *special election*. Probable candidates to replace Serna include Councilmembers Rob Kerth, Robbie Waters, Heather Fargo and Steve Cohn...

■ ***Changes at Fleishman-Hillard*** - Big news in Sacto is that Fleishman-Hillard PR has beefed up its Capital p/a-government affairs operation by completing a triple play: hiring former State Sen. Ken Maddy as a sr. VP/partner; hiring political consultant Sal Russo as a sr. VP/partner; and forming a strategic alliance with the lobbying firm of Richard Robinson & Assoc. FYI: Russo will actually do double duty because he will continue to be active in his political consulting firm. That firm has been renamed *Russo, Marsh & Rogers* to reflect the addition of Ron Rogers as a partner. Gene Raper is still affiliated with the firm...

■ ***L.A. Charter Reform Update*** - It looks as though L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan *blinked* - and now says that a *compromise* Charter Reform plan is what's needed. So the Elected Charter Reform Commission did a 180 and by a 12-1 vote decided to back the *compromise* plan with some modifications. Truth was that some Elected Commissioners were not thrilled with their previous vote and Riordan got the message...

■ ***Business Leaders form Education Group*** - It's called Calif. Business for Education Excellence. It's a coalition of that includes the CA Chamber, American Electronics Assn., The Boeing Co., CCEEB, the CA Mfg. Assn., Hewlett-Packard Co., IBM, Pacific Bell,

The Technology Network and the CA Business Roundtable. Roundtable Pres. Bill Hauck is the chair of this new group, which will focus on insuring that new statewide academic standards are adopted in all public schools. Reed Hastings of The Technology Network is the vice chair and Joe Dooling of the AEA is the treasurer...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Long Beach Councilwoman Jenny Oropeza has been elected President of the Hispanic Elected Local Officials(HELO)...

● GOP businesswoman Noel Irwin-Hentschel has launched BIG-PAC (Business & Integrity in Govt.), with I-H's govt. affairs director Catherine Rayner overseeing the PAC...

● Tina Harris has been promoted to VP in the Sacto office of Edelman PR Worldwide...

● Susan Aronson has been appointed to serve on the Title I Cmt. of Practitioners by SPI Delaine Eastin. Aronson is a Group VP in the Sacto office of Nelson Communications Group...

● Michael S. Metcalfe has joined L.A.-based Kosmont & Associates as a sr. planning & development specialist...

● New HQ for the CA League of Conservation Voters: 1212 Broadway, Ste. 630, Oakland, CA 94612. ☎ (510)271-0900. www.ecovote.org...

● Former Assemblywoman Valerie Brown(D) has been appointed to the CA Medical Assistance Commission by Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa...

● There's a new West Coast HQ for Dresner, Wickers & Assoc. at 300 Brannan St., #207, S.F., CA 94107. New ☎ (415)512-7100. The new office in NY is at 153 Main St., #4E, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. New ☎ (914)242-4854...

● LG Cruz Bustamante has named attorney and USC law school professor Jonathan S. Shapiro as his COS...